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NO SECOND CLASS CITIZENS
Hertford County volunteers complete second CERT training



STAFF PHOTO/Stephanie Duffey
Chowan County Emergency Manager
Patty Madry instructs Boy Scouts Lucas
Williams (standing) and Ian Duffey
(seated) on how to splint a compound
fracture during the recent Hertford
County CERT training in Winton.

MURFREESBORO, N.C – There’s no question about it. They may have been the second group of volunteers to complete the most recent CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training, but these citizens are CERT-ainly anything but second class.

With varied backgrounds ranging from experience in food preparation and Boy Scout leader, to fire fighter and HAM radio operator, these volunteers share one common vision: helping others. “You can’t help others if you haven’t taken care of yourself,” said Chowan County Emergency Management Director Patty Madry. Madry taught the very first class of Hertford County volunteers and has been an integral partner in helping the Hertford County CERT get off the ground. “It’s all about working together,” said Madry.

During the training, volunteers learned about what actions they need to take before, during and after a disaster to ensure their safety and that of their families; how and when to use a fire extinguisher and which kind to use; how to safely perform a head-to-toe assessment on injured individuals and how to diagnose and treat airway obstruction, bleeding and shock using simple triage and rapid treatment techniques.

They also learned how to safely conduct light search and rescue; how to identify signs and symptoms that might be experienced by disaster victims and workers and how to respond. Assistant Fire Chief for the Ahoskie Fire Department, Eric Whitmeyer conducted the fire extinguisher training.

Participants for the CERT training said the workshop was something every citizen should consider because personal responsibility in preparedness helps alleviate the burden on overwhelmed emergency personnel during a disaster.

“I know it seems fatalistic to say so, but in a disaster the government cannot be the only resource on which we depend,” said one volunteer. “We have to realize that there’s only so

much government agencies and personnel can do during a disaster. I want to do all I can to be an asset.”

Citizen Corps challenges citizens “to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety,” while the CERT program provides training and structure within that framework.

Citizen Corps is a vital component of USA Freedom Corps, created in 2002 by President George W. Bush following the tragic events of September 11 to increase volunteerism in America and motivate citizens to be proactive with regard to emergency preparedness. For more on how you can get involved, contact Stephanie Duffey at 252-539-2236 ext. 283.